

February 13, 2014

Committee Issue: National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and Mental Health

Public Comment to 63rd Montana Legislature

Comments from: Julia Starrett

Committee members thank you for hearing my comments today.

My name is Julia Starrett.

I am a Montana resident, a small business owner, a voter, and a very happy new mother. I am also an active volunteer of an organization called, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. We represent a growing community of families that believe stronger policies regarding guns in our state can save lives without infringing on our second amendment rights.

Montana and the entire nation is facing a public health crisis. Nearly eight American children are shot and killed every day because of easy access to guns. Poorly enforced laws and outdated policies are working against a safe and healthy environment for our children.

Montana is ranked in the bottom half of all states for recording mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Recording these important records is paramount to the safety of Montana's citizens by helping to enforce current law—lives will be saved.

In less than one month, my daughter will have her first birthday. I am so happy that she has a chance to grow up in this beautiful and amazing state. Keeping guns out of the wrong hands is a way in which our state can help ensure her safety and well-being.

Leading makes a difference, please consider policies that will strengthen NICS records. This in turn will strengthen the safety for all of our children and make our state—and our country—a better place to live.

Thank You

Law and Justice Meeting
February 13 , 2014

Exhibit 14